

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #66992: C10-08
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 January-March 2010
1st Quarter

Participating UN Organisation: UNESCO (lead) and UNDP
Sector: Economic Reform and Diversification/ ERDSOT

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Iraqi Prime Minister’s Office

Title	Restoration of Al Askari Shrine in Samarra City and Rehabilitation of Other Damaged Religious Sites Throughout Iraq				
Geographic Location	Salah El Din Governorate, Samarra District, Samarra City and Baghdad Governorate, Resafa District, Baghdad City				
Project Cost	US\$8,000,000 ITF + USD\$ 3,000,000 GOI				
Duration	Original 24 months increased to 34 months due to security and sectarian violence. Extension required till end of June 2010.				
Approval Date (SC)	22 February 2007	Starting Date	February 2007	Completion Date	30 September 2010

Project Description Promotion of national reconciliation through community-level initiatives, with restoration/reconstruction of religious sites as the entry point to respond to six key areas, such as increasing access to potable water in urban areas, increasing sewage treatment and access to urban sewerage systems, increase solid waste collection and disposal, access to potable water and sanitation in rural areas.

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure the safety and preservation of the Al Askari Shrine site in order to prepare for its restoration as a symbol of peace and reconciliation in Iraq, while enhancing the national capacity to perform similar tasks on other damaged cultural/religious sites. 2. To initiate the process of rehabilitation of other damaged religious sites throughout Iraq as part of the reconciliation process. 3. To provide employment opportunities and ensure citizens’ involvement in the rebuilding of their communities through sub-projects focused on rehabilitation related to the Samarra Shrine.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<p>Output 1.1: Urgent intervention works on Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed: Site protected and cleaned, materials classified, and structure reinforced (UNESCO).</p> <p>Output 1.2: Prepare works for the restoration project of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed. (UNESCO).</p> <p>Output 1.3: Personnel of State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in technical areas related to restoration and preservation trained.</p> <p>Output 2.1: Highest-priority damaged religious sites rehabilitated (UNDP).</p> <p>Output 2.2: Contribute towards reconciliation, restoration of stability and security, consensus and peace building.</p> <p>Output 3.1: Implement sub-projects related to the Samarra Shrine completed (UNDP).</p> <p>Output 3.2: Community ownership through involvement in sub-project identification and implementation promoted.</p>

	Output 3.3: Generation of temporary short and medium term employment opportunities.
Activities	<p>1.1.1 Establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MOPDC), Shiite and Sunni Awqaf, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Samarra community representative.</p> <p>1.1.2 Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company will undertake urgent and preventive works to preserve the site.</p> <p>1.2.1 Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company will undertake works preparing the final restoration project of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.</p> <p>1.2.2 UNESCO will prepare the project document and the budget estimate for the restoration phase (Phase II).</p> <p>1.3.1 Arranging and delivering a special training programme for the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) improving their technical capacity to conduct the works supervision of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.</p> <p>2.1.1 Identifying, as endorsed by PSC, other priority religious sites to be considered for rehabilitation, which will ultimately include two mosques (one Shiite and one Sunni) and one church.</p> <p>2.1.2 Undertake comprehensive site assessment, perform all required structural stability studies and analyses assessment and define the nature of required interventions.</p> <p>2.1.3 Performing networks analyses and studies assessing all water supply, wastewater, electrical power supply facility conditions and define the nature of required interventions as deemed applicable for implementation.</p> <p>2.1.4 Preparing of detailed construction drawings, specifications, bills of quantities, scope of works.</p> <p>2.1.5 Rehabilitation activities, relying on local implementing partners wherever possible.</p> <p>2.1.6 Preparing budget estimates for rehabilitating other priority religious sites and buildings.</p> <p>2.1.7 UNDP and UNESCO Directors and Project Managers will evaluate the works completed and will report to the PSC, which will decide on the following action plan for the other religious sites to be rehabilitated during the Phase II.</p> <p>2.2.1 Establishment of a PSC including Shiite and Sunni Awqaf and religious dignitaries of both religious communities, and relevant government authorities, will promote the intercultural inter-sectarian dialogue and lay the ground for a region-specific peace building and reconciliation process contributing to the broader nationwide processes (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>2.2.2 Development of media material illustrating the situation before and after the attacks on the Samarra Shrine and other religious sites as part of an integrated campaign targeting reconciliation and peace building (UNESCO).</p> <p>2.2.3 Support the existing Iraqi-led Baghdad peace initiative in direct collaboration with the government, UNAMI and all involved local authorities (UNESCO).</p> <p>2.2.4 Initial activities towards building consensus leading to increase tolerance among the local religious communities through joint participation in all projects activities (micro context) (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>3.1.1 Identify, with participation from religious dignitaries of both religious communities and the Awqaf, a recovery agenda of priority activities that will provide tangible and highly visible benefits. It will be done through the rehabilitation of priority infrastructure aimed at benefiting both communities, as formulated in the recovery agenda. It is expected that the agenda will include several of the following project categories and other small scale projects focusing on supporting the local community. Some of the component activities will be implemented through an IREP like community labour intensive modality.</p> <p>3.2.1 Community awareness campaign in local media and through other public outreach mechanisms (Friday prayer, posters, leaflets) (UNESCO).</p>

	<p>3.2.2 Dedicated engagement of community members and entities within all projects activities, including identification, planning, provision of in-kind donations and the implementation supervision (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>3.3.1 Following all necessary assessments, verifications, study, design, implementation of some project activities through the labour-intensive implementation modality and through employment of local community members (UNESCO and UNDP).</p>
Procurement (major items)	All procurement activities included in this project were implemented according to the UN procurement standard rules.

Funds Committed	UNESCO: UNDG USD 5,304,189	% of approved	98.22%
	GOI USD 2,860,687	% of approved	95.38%
	UNDP: USD 1,396,200	% of approved	53.70%
Funds Disbursed	UNESCO: UNDG USD 4,662,318	% of approved	86%
	GOI USD 152,612	% of approved	5 %
	UNDP: USD 1,323,626	% of approved	50.91%
Forecast final date	30 September 2010	Delay (months)	16

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	Men who practice the Muslim faith or require surgery in Samarra. Men from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Men who are Christian in Baghdad.	
Women	Women who practice the Muslim faith or require surgery in Samarra. Women from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Women who are Christian in Baghdad.	
Children	1,000 school children at present and those in future who will utilize the playground.	
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)	600 workers UNESCO 1,200 families benefitted from employment UNDP.	

Quantitative Achievements against Objectives and Results			
UNESCO			
Mobilization activity (building site installations)	Completed	% of planned	100
Removing any outside elements that may lead to further collapses.	Completed	% of planned	100
Cleaning the site and within the Shrine building	Completed	% of planned	100
Classifying, originating and storing the discovered architectural elements and the materials scattered on the site in a temporary warehouse;	Completed	% of planned	100
Urgent preventive works	Completed	% of planned	100
Historical Documentation	Completed	% of planned	100
Architectural Documentation	Completed	% of planned	100
Soil and Foundation Studies; Building Materials and Fine Art Studies & Structure Stability Studies	Completed	% of planned	100
Final Project and Tender Submission Documentation	UNESCO has launched a bidding process for the Final Project and Tender Submission Documentation.	% of planned	10
UNDP			
Rehabilitation of Al Riyadh Primary school for boys	A major school in Samarra, its rehabilitation attracted the attention of the community on the need for improved basic services in the city.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Mixed Secondary School	The school was occupied by local security forces for some time and its rehabilitation and use as an educational facility serves a good purpose, including MDG and girl child education.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Al Shaheed Mosque	One of the damaged mosques. Works at the site was very dangerous at times.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Hassan Pasha Mosque	The works were suspended on several occasions as a result of the deterioration of security.	% of planned	100
Preparation of Samarra Recovery Agenda	A comprehensive development plan for Samarra is available in English and Arabic with endorsement and consensus from the Governorate, City, Qada' and the Municipality and their technical departments.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Al Lateen Church in Baghdad	The works completed during 2nd Quarter 2009.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation and Extension of Operations Department of Samarra General Hospital	The rehabilitation works completed. Final completion reported received with photos provided. Substantial Completion signed by Qaim Maqam Samarra (Mayor) and Department of Health. An opening ceremony is planned during 2 nd Quarter 2010.	% of planned	100
Construction of a new Playground in Al Muatasim suburb area in Samarra	Land has been cleared with legal papers provided during 1 st Quarter. Design is completed and project is present in tender.	% of planned	60

Provision and installation of a Water Treatment Plant in Samarra	The bidding process was launched during 1 st Quarter. Contract is expected to be awarded early 2 nd Quarter. Works are on schedule.	% of planned	50
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Qualitative Achievements against Objectives and Results

UNESCO Achievements

UNESCO and the Iraqi Technical Committee have signed a contract for the activities under Phase I on 9 October 2008. From this date the Technical Committee is in charge of implementing Phase I under the supervision of UNESCO experts.

- UNESCO signed a contract with the Iraqi Technical Committee for the implementation of the Soil and Foundation Studies; Building Materials and Fine Art Studies and Structure Stability Studies.
- The Samarra Shrine project has contributed to employment creation and income generation for families in Samarra City. Approximately 600 workers from Samarra have been employed since February 2008.
- In addition to these works this component is to ensure the capacity building among Iraqis to perform similar restoration work tasks on other damaged cultural/religious sites.
- UNESCO and the Technical Committee have frequent meetings to evaluate progress of works and to exchange views regarding the implementation of the project.
- Beginning of May 2009 UNESCO Director-General and Iraqi Prime Minister signed two Memorandum of Understanding to establish a College of Archaeology in Samara and Restoration of the Al-Malawyah Minaret, the Great Mosque of Samarra.
- On 17-20 July 2009 UNESCO organized a workshop in Lebanon-Beirut with Iraqi tribal leaders, regional and local authorities related to the progress of the Samarra Shrine project, this workshop also included discussions related to future project activities in Samarra.
- As a result of the reconstruction works, the Shrine has again become an active place of worship, helping to renew the local economy as well as national faith. It has been estimated that about 50,000 pilgrims visit the Shrine weekly or 200,000 per month, not just from Iraq but also from other countries receiving the message of tolerance implicit in the Shrine's reconstruction that is being transmitted daily to thousands.
- UNESCO has purchased equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on the use of equipments and the studies related to the Soil and Foundation, Fine Art and Structure Stability.
 - A team of experts undertook two missions to Samarra in October and December 2009, related to the implementation of the "Completion of the Final Restoration Project of Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra – Iraq" activity. The following studies have been completed by experts on;
 - Building materials and fine arts
 - Completion of structural studies
 - Architectural studies and final project and
 - Historical documentation
- UNESCO has launched a bidding process for the Final Project and Tender Submission Documentation, which is the last activity of the project.

UNDP Achievements

Phase I completed, which includes the rehabilitation of two mosques (Al Shaheed and Hassan Pasha) and two schools (Al Riyadh Primary School and Mixed Secondary School) in Samarra City.

Phase II ongoing, which includes;

- Meetings were held at UNDP in Amman with the Samarra Qaim Maqam (Mayor) and the UNDP consultant 23-27 March 2008. The Inception Report for Phase II was presented, discussed and approved during the meetings. Planned activities include: 1) Rehabilitation and extension of Operations Department of Samarra General Hospital; 2) Construction of Playground in Al-Mutasim suburb area in Samarra City; 3) Rehabilitation of water treatment plant and 4) Rehabilitation of Al-Lateen Church in Baghdad.
- A follow-up meeting was held with the Samarra Qaim Maqam in Amman on 22 April 2008. Phase II was discussed in detail and an action plan was drawn up.
- A workshop to develop a holistic Recovery Plan for Samarra was organized by UNDP-Iraq in Istanbul 17-19 July 2008 and attended by the Governor of Salah Al-Din, Samarra Qaim Maqam, Municipality Council, and representatives from MoPDC, Samarra and Salah Al-Din Departments, Samarra PRT, and UNESCO.
- A technical meeting took place in Amman between UNDP and the Head of Samarra PRT on 13-15 July and 22-23 July 2008. Discussions included the concluded workshop on Samarra Recovery Planning in Istanbul,

the cooperation between UNDP and the PRT, and the future trend of UNDP activities in Samarra.

- Two (2) new projects, rehabilitation and extension of surgical department of Samarra General Hospital and construction of a new playground in Al-Muatasim suburb were signed and launched September 2008.
- LoA Agreement with Samarra Qaim Maqamiyat signed for second phase works September 2008.
- Al Latten Church Rehabilitation contract was signed 4 November and works started on 13 November 2008 with completion April 2009.
- A kick-off meeting for the Samarra Hospital and Playground held in Amman on 17-18 November 2008 with the Samarra Qaim Maqam initiating the bidding, preparation of Bill of Quantities and technical designs.
- The land for the playground has been identified and continues to wait for legal clearance at the end of 4th Quarter. The land title has cleared during 1st Quarter 2010 and designs have been completed and tender initiated.
- Samarra Development Agenda was presented to the Local Authorities in 2nd Quarter 2009. The Samarra Development Agenda identifies the priorities and the sequence of priorities within the major sectors of development including: health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, tourism, communications and infrastructure. The Samarra Development Agenda is presently available in both English and Arabic with a conference to roll out the Agenda after the elections in March 2010.
- The major construction works to the surgical/operating theaters at the Samarra Hospital are complete, with a Final Completion Report received with photos provided. Substantial Completion signed by Qaim Maqam Samarra, by the Mayor and Department of Health. The opening ceremony is planned in 2nd Quarter 2010.
- The water treatment plant has been launched during 1st Quarter with the bidding opened in 1st Quarter. Contract is expected to be awarded early 2nd Quarter. Works are on schedule.
- The Mayor of Samarra, accompanied by a Senior USAID and PRT person visited UNDP-Iraq at the Amman Office on 17-18 March. These two key persons met with UNDP staff and the Senior USAID Official, Michael Craft, clearly stated that the work in Samarra has been innovative and serves as a model that he has shared in Washington with State Department Officials.
It has been recommended that a Conference be held with other Cities and Governorate Officials to discuss the process of development in Samarra as a peace and consensus-building tool.

Main Implementation Constraints and Challenges

The delay in project implementation was mainly due to the security issues in Samarra. At present, UNDP has projects in Samarra as the Baghdad works at the church are complete. With the change in the MNF-I structure and withdrawal from cities, there is a risk of possible increase in violence, as Samarra experienced sectarian violence during 2006 and 2007. This resulted in two bombings that caused a domino effect into other parts of the country. The formation of the new government after the elections during 1st Quarter may delay with the timeline presently anticipated in August/September. This could affect the release of the Federal Budget to the Governorates and thus affect development work in the communities.